

oversee expansion of our computer networks needed to deal with the ever-growing stream of e-mail sent to our offices, and, of course, the demands to keep the Senate accessible amidst ever-changing security requirements. In short, he has realized the goals he set out for himself on his first day of work: Providing State-of-the art technology and world class security.

He has won the respect and admiration of people throughout the Senate, members of both parties.

Bill has taken continuity planning and security to a new level for us in the Senate, and I know his successor, our former police chief, Terry Gainer, will follow Bill's lead on these critical issues.

As a person with a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, I trust that Mr. Pickle will not mind if I paraphrase the great American police chief, August Vollmer. In his service to the Senate, I believe, Bill Pickle has shown "the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of David, the leadership of Moses, the strategic thinking of Alexander the Great, and the diplomacy of Lincoln."

Bill Pickle: I thank you, the Senate thanks you, and the Nation thanks you.

TRIBUTE TO DOLLY PARTON

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, a few days ago, an extraordinary Tennessean, Dolly Parton, received one of the 2006 Kennedy Center Honors. As a singer, a songwriter, an actress, a television producer, and an entrepreneur, she has emerged as one of the preeminent cultural figures of our era. Her life story, her talent, and her rise to success can serve as an inspiration for all Americans.

Dolly Parton, in fact, could turn out to be the last prominent American actually born in a log cabin. She was born at home on January 19, 1946. Growing up, by her own description, "dirt poor," in east Tennessee's town of Sevierville, her family of 14 lived in a hand-built log house. She discovered her gift for singing in church, gave public performances before she turned 10, recorded her first tracks at age 12, and appeared at the Grand Ole Opry at 13. Well-known country artists recorded her original compositions before she turned 20. Her own recordings hit the country charts for the first time with the song "Dumb Blonde" in 1966. Today, she has recorded more No. 1 Billboard hits than any other female artist ever and received 25 gold, platinum, and multiplatinum honors. She has been awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, seven Grammy Awards, and two Oscar nominations. Her unique personal style and her sense of humor have influenced Americans across the country.

Since 1986, her theme park, Dollywood, has generated thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the Great Smokey

Mountains. As one of the most visited theme parks in the country, Dollywood now serves as an economic anchor for east Tennessee. Today, a statue of her sits Sevierville's town square. She has also given back: Her Imagination Library charitable program has shared her love of reading with millions of children around the United States.

Dolly Parton stands as one of the most influential living Tennesseans. We all owe her a debt of gratitude.

I must close in expressing my strong agreement with sentiments about her own musical genre: "If you talk bad about country music, it's like saying bad things about my momma. Them's fightin' words."

Dolly Parton: I thank you. America thanks you.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MANIAS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tomorrow is an historic day in Peoria, IL. It was exactly 60 years ago tomorrow—on December 6, 1946—that George Manias opened his shoeshine business with one shoeshine chair in the corner of a downtown barber shop.

George has been shining shoes in Peoria ever since—for working folks, movie stars, famous athletes, and at least two presidents.

This evening, the Peoria City Council will honor George Manias with a special resolution in his honor. I ask unanimous consent that the text of that resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Office of the Mayor—Proclamation
60TH ANNIVERSARY, GEORGE'S SHOESHINE PARLOR, "WORLD HEADQUARTERS", PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Whereas, George Manias opened his shoeshine business in 1946, and he has been in the heart of Downtown for 60 years and is recognized by the City of Peoria for his genuine concern for people, his traditional work ethic, and his ability to continue to operate a successful small business in a changing environment; and

Whereas, George Manias has been locally and nationally recognized for many years and has been featured in the U.S.A. Today newspaper and on the Today Show on NBC; and

Whereas, George Manias has an open door to everyone from all walks of life and has served the citizens of Peoria, as well as local and national celebrities and elected officials, including President Ronald Reagan and Senator Everett Dirksen;

Now Therefore, I, Jim Ardis, Mayor of the City of Peoria, Illinois, do hereby congratulate

George Manias in Peoria, Illinois, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of George's Shoeshine Parlor.

Dated this 5th day of December 2006 A.D.
Mayor

Mr. DURBIN. The resolution notes that George's shoeshine parlor has been in the heart of downtown Peoria for 60 years. Some would say that George's just flat is the heart of downtown Peoria.

Located across the street from the Peoria County Courthouse and kitty-corner from the world headquarters of the Caterpillar Incorporated, George's shoe shine parlor brings together people from all walks of life.

Among his customers are the judges, lawyers, police, politicians and other courthouse regulars; business leaders; celebrities; and other folks who appreciate the importance of caring for leather and looking your best.

They come in, sit down in one of George's nine shoe shine chairs with their shoes scuffed and dirty and five or six minutes later, they stand up with their shoes polished to a mirror finish, looking like new money. It's like the old 1950 song by Harry Stone and Jack Stapp, Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy:

He makes the oldest kinda' leather look like new

You feel as though you want to dance when he gets through.

And it only costs \$3 a shine—the same price George has been charging for over 15 years.

George Manias is a master of an almost lost art. He is a shoeshine professional. He wears a white dress shirt and a bow tie every day.

A lot of shoeshine men nowadays apply the polish with a cloth. Not George. He's old school. He massages the polish into your shoes with his bare hands. He explains: The polish gets into the leather better that way. Then he buffs and shines and the next thing you know, your shoes look better than when you bought them.

Let me tell George's story. It is a great American story. George Manias was born in Peoria 75 years ago, the son of proud Greek immigrants, and he speaks with the accent of his parents' homeland. That's because, when he was 3 or 4 years old, his parents took the family back to Crete, to see George's grandfather, who was very ill.

While the family was in Crete, the Nazis invaded and George's father was taken prisoner.

In 1945, when the war ended, the Manias family was finally able to return to Peoria. They were practically penniless. Everyone had to work to support the family. George had to learn to speak English.

At 14, he started shining shoes at the old Paris Shoe Shine Parlor on Main Street, next to the Palace Theater. He charged 20 cents a shine.

Within a year, he had saved enough money to buy his own chair. He became an entrepreneur, working out of Ed and Roy Gibbs' Barber Shop.

In 1956, he opened his own 12-seat shoe shine parlor in the Old Niagara Building.

Over the years, George has had four different shops. The last three were all torn down to make way for bigger, taller buildings. He moved to his current location almost 20 years ago.

Today, a professional shoeshine might seem like a minor indulgence. But back when George started, a man